

Solihull Council Carbon Plan 2025 - 2030

Pathway to Net Zero by 2030

Introduction

This plan outlines how Solihull Council will seek to reach net zero in its operational carbon emissions by 2030. The plan sets out a range of actions; from those already underway or with delivery plans in place, to those being investigated for feasibility. This plan updates the 2021 Council Carbon Plan.

Net Zero Target

In October 2019, the Council signed its Statement of Intent on the Climate Emergency and set an aim to become: 'net zero carbon, as a Council by 2030' in its operations. At the time of the declaration, the Council reported corporate property, leisure centres, streetlighting and the Strategic Environmental Contract (SEC) emissions against this net zero aim and has continued to report these annually.

The scope of reporting has been expanded further following a review of the Council's reporting process. Additional categories have been included in the annual reporting, with some new areas now being incorporated within the Council net zero ambition, see below. This revised reporting methodology can be accessed [here](#).

Scope	Source	Reporting area
*Scope 1 Direct emissions arising from combustion of fossil fuels (such as gas & diesel)	Corporate buildings	Existing
	Leisure centres	Existing
	Fuel use (Council owned/operated fleet: corporate, school transport & SEC)	Existing
	Fugitive emissions (air conditioning)	Under development
	Adult Social Care & Childrens residential buildings	New
	Solihull Community Housing (SCH) offices & communal areas	New
	SCH fleet	New
*Scope 2 Indirect emissions from purchased energy e.g. electricity	Corporate buildings	Existing
	Leisure centres	Existing
	Streetlighting	Existing
	Traffic Signals	New
	Adult Social Care & Childrens residential buildings	New
	SCH offices & communal areas	New
Scope 3 Other indirect/ supply chain emissions - sources that the Council does not own or control	*Electricity Transmission & Distribution losses	Existing
	*Water use & wastewater treatment in Council operated buildings (corporate, leisure centres, ASC & Childrens residential & SCH offices)	New
	*Waste from Council operated buildings (corporate, leisure centres & SCH offices)	New
	*Business travel	New
	Municipal waste	New

* Included in Council net zero by 2030 ambition

Council's Approach to Net Zero

The Council is seeking to take a hierarchy approach to reducing carbon emissions, the focus of activities is on actions that provide maximum benefit to the Council, for example cost savings and/ or co-benefits. The hierarchy approach is as follows: below:

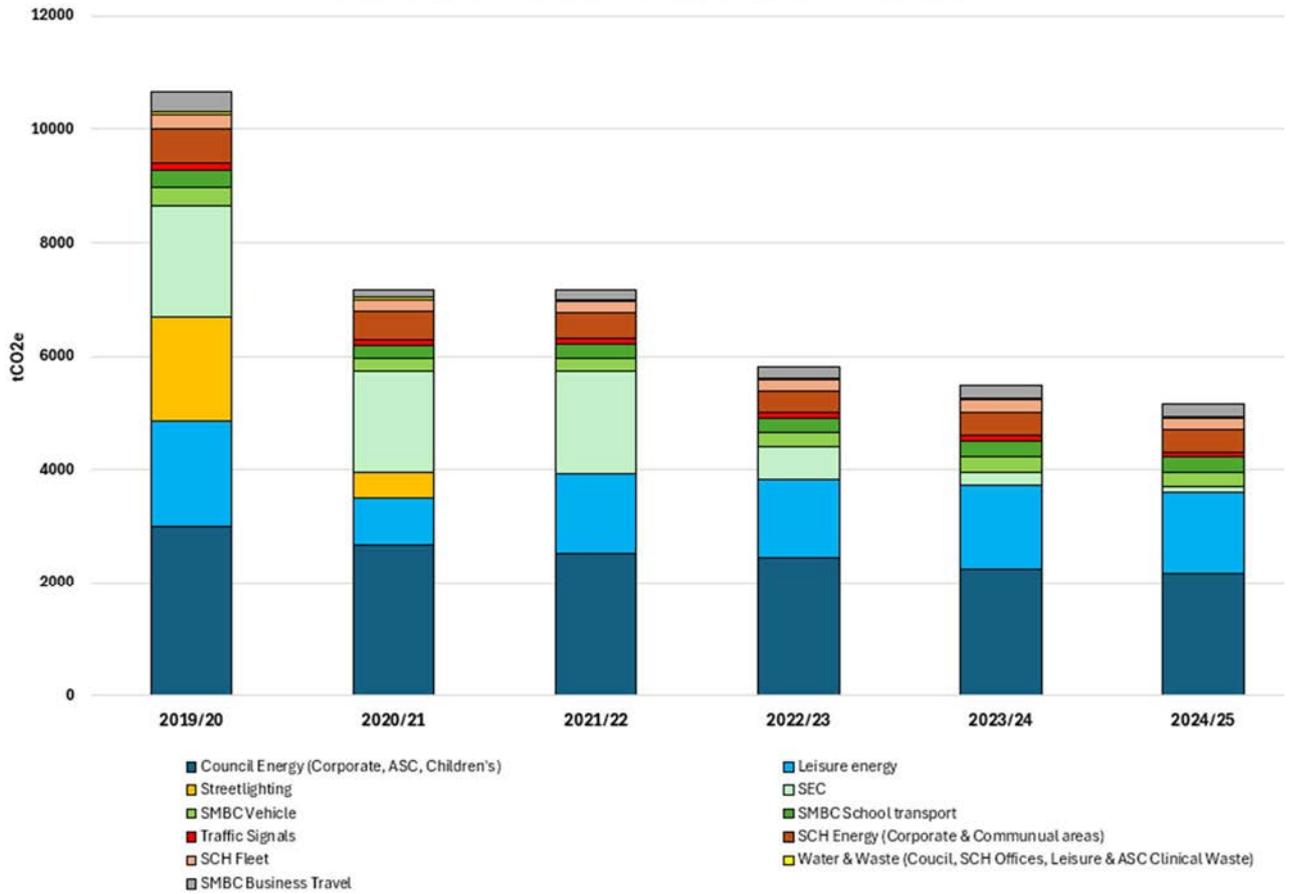
- ❖ **Avoid energy consumption** – avoiding the use of energy and carbon intensive activities must be the priority where possible e.g. avoiding a trip, effective use of properties
- ❖ **Reduce consumption** – following avoidance, consumption reduction is next e.g. installing energy efficiency measures such as insulation
- ❖ **Replace energy sources** – once use is minimised the type of energy used is next in the hierarchy e.g. installing solar PV on owned roofs, connection to energy or heat network, use of electric vehicles.
- ❖ **Store** – storage of energy e.g. battery energy storage
- ❖ **Source** – e.g. procurement of green tariff electricity can be considered.

After these opportunities have been exhausted, further action may be needed by the Council to address any remaining emissions. Options could include insetting (investing in carbon reduction projects within the Borough to offset emissions caused by the Council e.g. seeking/developing verified schemes involving tree planting or helping residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes) or purchasing offsetting credits (purchasing credits for carbon reduction/sequestration projects unrelated to Solihull Borough). Purchasing offsetting credits would be a significant cost to the Council. Carbon is covered by this plan alongside other Greenhouse Gas Emissions such as Methane, Nitrous Oxide and Fluorinated Gases.

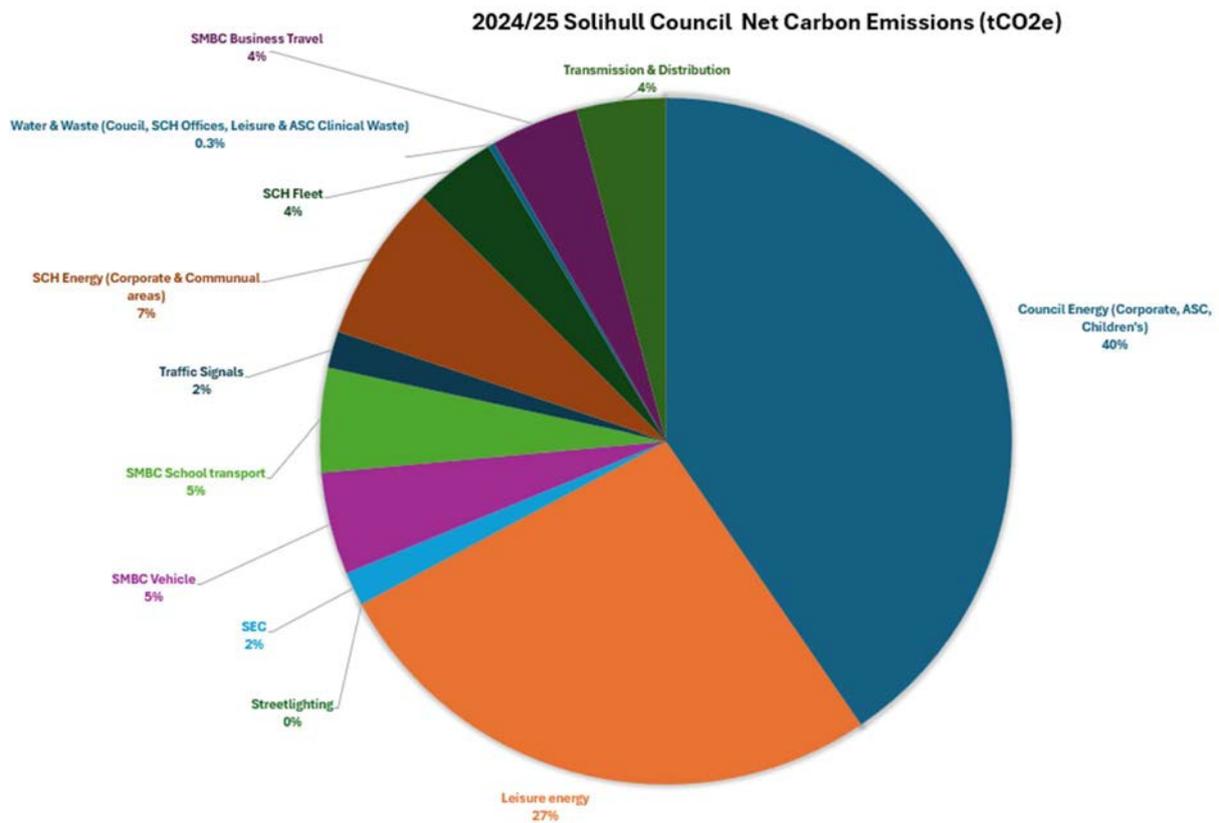
Progress to Date

The Council has significantly reduced net carbon emissions from 11016 tCO₂e in the baseline year (2019/20) to 5380 tCO₂e in 2024/25. A reduction of 51%. The following chart shows progress made to date by emission source:

Solihull Council Net Carbon Emissions 2019/20 to 2024/25



The pie chart below shows the most significant source of Council net carbon emissions in 2024/25 was from energy use in buildings.



Achieving the Net Zero ambition

A significant amount of work has already been undertaken towards decarbonisation within the Council, such as:

- Energy efficiency measures in council buildings, street lighting and traffic signals e.g. installation of energy efficient LED lighting
- Installation of pool covers and solar PV panels at leisure centres
- Lightfoot System in Solihull Community Housing fleet (in-cab technology designed to, amongst other things, improve fuel efficiency)
- Procurement of green tariff electricity for street lighting
- Use of HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) fuel in Strategic Environment Contract vehicles
- Fleet review undertaken and fleet decarbonisation plan in place.
- Feasibility study for the electrification of the Council's main depot underway.

Further detail on what has been achieved to date can be found [here](#).

Upcoming actions to reduce emissions include the completion of the first phase of Solihull Town Centre Energy Network and changes to the Council's property portfolio, with deeper decarbonisation of some buildings and others disposed of.

The Carbon Plan Action Schedule below sets out a range of actions; from those

already underway or with delivery plans in place, to those being investigated for feasibility. There are actions included which, if deemed to be feasible and were implemented, would allow the Council to reach net zero by 2030.

Delivery governance

Progress against the Council's net zero ambition is reported annually through the annual Carbon Budget Report. A summary of annual progress is published on the Your Future Solihull webpage. The most recent report and previous reports, along with the previous Council Carbon Plan can be seen [here](#). This is the second edition of the Council Carbon Plan, which will be reviewed every two years or when required.

Carbon Plan reporting will be progressed through the Council's Climate Change Group and has oversight via the Council's Climate Change & Sustainability Board.

Due to the nature of the project the plan has integration with the Council's risk register and capital programme approvals.

Council Carbon Plan Action Schedule

This action schedule consolidates actions that are underway, planned, or in feasibility to reduce Council emissions. For each action, the table sets out scope, status, leads, funding routes and (where available) indicative annual tCO₂e savings. Savings will be quantified as delivery plans are finalised.

Ref	Action	Scope/ Source	Delivery status	Lead	Funding route	Estimated annual saving by 2030/31 (tCO ₂ e)
C1	Corporate property retrofit – WMCA Buildings Retrofit Pilot (selected sites)	Scope 1 & 2 – Corporate estate	Feasibility	Property Services / CCS	WMCA Devolved Buildings Retrofit Pilot + 12% match - SMBC	~200+
C2	Corporate property lighting & Corporate/Leisure chillers retrofit (Council Ho, Tudor Grange Leisure Centre (TG) & selected sites (lighting))	Scope 2 - Corporate & Leisure electricity	Planned	Property Services	SMBC	TBC
C3	Leisure centres – solar PV & efficiency (TG & North Solihull (NS))	Scope 2 – Leisure electricity	Operational (PV at TG & NS); Ongoing	Leisure Operator / Property Services	Sports Council England (recently delivered)	~ 120
C4	Solihull Town Centre Energy Network – Phase 1 The Core and Tudor Grange Leisure Centre to replace gas heating with Energy Network heat. (Phase 2 in development stage – planned expansion to further council buildings)	Scope 1/2 – heat/electricity supply	Phase 1 Underway Phase 2 in development	UKC Programme Team	Capital (secured) WMCA; DESNZ	Phase 1 ~ 94 – The Core ~ 350 - TG
C5	Crematoria decarbonisation – feasibility study	Scope 1 – heat	Feasibility	Crematoria Service lead	Midlands Net Zero Hub (DESNZ)	~ 542
C6	Streetlighting – renewable electricity procurement	Scope 2 – streetlighting	Operational	Highways / Street Lighting	Core budget (electricity tariff)	~137 (gross)
C7	Streetlighting - CMS rollout (efficiency)	Scope 2 – streetlighting	Ongoing	Highways / Street Lighting	Capital programme	~100 (gross)
C8	Traffic Signals upgrade programme	Scope 2 – traffic signals	Ongoing	Highways	Capital programme	~15

Ref	Action	Scope/ Source	Delivery status	Lead	Funding route	Estimated annual saving by 2030/31 (tCO ₂ e)
C9	SEC Fleet – HVO transition (also vehicle efficiency, electrification pathway & depot plan as below)	Scope 1 – SEC fleet	Operational	Waste contractor (SEC) Waste Management	Contracted	~1373
C10	Council Fleet – vehicle efficiency, electrification pathway & depot plan	Scope 1 – SMBC fleet	In development	Fleet Services /UKC	Grant + core budget (where applicable)	~259
C11	School Transport – Council vehicles efficiency/EV	Scope 1 – school transport (Council vehicles only)	In development	School Transport/ Fleet	Core/Grant (where available)	~263
C12	Solihull Community Housing (SCH) – fleet vehicle efficiency (including route optimisation system) & electrification pathway	Scope 1 – SCH fleet	In development (route optimisation underway)	SCH	Core/Grant (where available)	~206
C13	Active travel schemes such as Cycle to Work	Scope 3 – Business Travel	Ongoing	Sustainable Travel Team	Variable/ Grant (where available)	TBC
C14	Continuation of flexible working	Scope 3 – Business Travel	Ongoing	Human Resources	N/A	TBC
C15	Renewable electricity procurement (estate-wide option)	Scope 2 – corporate/leisure/trade/affic signals/SCH	Option appraisal	Procurement / Property Services/SCH	ESPO framework (~0.7% tariff uplift)	~342
C16	Green gas (biomethane) procurement option	Scope 1 – gas displacement	Option appraisal	Procurement / Property Services	Tariff uplift (~30% indicative)	~2025
Other Actions – not directly related to Council net zero ambition						
C17	Maintained schools decarbonisation surveys	Maintained Schools (reported separately)	Funded	Education / Property Services	WMCA	TBC

Ref	Action	Scope/ Source	Delivery status	Lead	Funding route	Estimated annual saving by 2030/31 (tCO ₂ e)
C18	EV charging spaces programme (500 bays across Borough)	Scope 3 influence – modal shift for business travel	Funded	UK Central Programme Team	DfT	TBC

The above actions are supported by:

- Council Corporate Property 'Approach to Net Zero' document - sets out strategic approach to achieving net zero in operational corporate portfolio
- Council [Electric Vehicle Strategy](#) - Council vehicles to be 0g CO₂e/km by end of 2030
- SCH [Strategic Vision](#) to be net zero by 2030
- Everyone [Active Net Zero Strategy](#) - corporate operations to be net zero by end of 2030
- [Veolia Carbon Reduction plan](#)

Glossary Terms

CMS: Central Management System (CMS) for street lighting is a software platform that enables remote, real-time control, monitoring, and management of street lighting networks.

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ): UK government department publishing local authority GHG statistics and energy policy.

Department for Transport (DfT): The Department for Transport is a ministerial department of the Government of the United Kingdom. It is wholly responsible for overseeing the transport network in England.

Energy/Heat Network: Piped or cabled network supplying energy and/ or heat from a central source to multiple buildings - enables low carbon energy or heat at scale.

Electric Vehicle (EV): Vehicle powered fully or partly by electricity (battery electric and plug-in hybrid).

HVO: Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) is a sustainable, fossil-free, and renewable diesel alternative made from waste fats and vegetable oils.

Net/Gross Emissions: Gross emissions are emissions resulting directly from an activity. Net emissions refer to the balance between the amount of emissions produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere.

Net Zero: Refers to achieving a state where the amount of greenhouse gases (also referred to in this plan as carbon emissions) released into the atmosphere is balanced by the amount removed, resulting in no net increase.

SEC: Strategic Environmental Contract operates the municipal waste & recycling collections, street cleansing and grounds maintenance on behalf of the Council by Veolia using Council owned vehicles.

tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent): Unit expressing the warming effect of different greenhouse gases as an equivalent amount of CO₂ in tonnes.

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA): Regional authority coordinating transport, skills, economic development and net zero programmes.